



# PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF CORONER-MARSHAL



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SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

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UNDERSHERIFF

## PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2001, 7 A.M.

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NATURE OF RELEASE: IMPROVEMENTS IMPLEMENTED FOLLOWING JAIL ESCAPE

LOCATION OF CALL: PLACER COUNTY JAIL, AUBURN

RELEASED BY: LT. RICK ARMSTRONG, (530) 889-7816

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

The Placer County Sheriff's Department has implemented new security measures and policies at the jail following the June 8 escape of two inmates.

The North Auburn jail has undergone a thorough review and physical changes in the facility have been made, according to Undersheriff Steve D'Arcy. Sheriff's officials have determined how the escape was accomplished and have developed improvements to the security systems to prevent another such escape.

The escapees "hot-wired" the locking mechanism of an exterior security door in the "E" tank. Once outside, they were able to escape through a chain-link fence. The 15-foot wall and cameras previously outside the door had been removed to make way for a new 116-bed jail expansion. The inmates used several implements fashioned from items in their cells and the tank to activate the electrical lock.

"All of these doors are now disabled," D'Arcy said, adding that these measures and many other security enhancements were made with the approval of the State Board of Corrections and the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Steven Mark Williams, 39, and Daniel Gordon Marshall, 42, escaped from the jail around 11 p.m. on Friday, June 8. They remain at large. Through the ongoing investigation it was learned that at least three other inmates planned to escape with the pair, but the escapees closed the door on them. Those inmates may be criminally charged for their participation and conspiracy, which included distracting one deputy inside the tank and another in a control booth during the escape.

The "E" tank is a two-story area with 12 cells. There were 16 prisoners in the tank at the time of the escape. The tank is outfitted with a large dayroom area with tables, a television and a pay phone. Prior to this incident, inmates were allowed all-day access, with a 10 p.m. lockdown. "E" tank inmates are now only allowed out of their cells one at a time, one hour-per-day, for recreation.

The jail is in the middle of major renovations, including the \$8 million, 116-bed expansion and a \$1.5 million upgrade of all alarms, door controls, video and other electronic monitoring systems.

"We are housing much tougher and more sophisticated inmates, many of whom face long prison terms," D'Arcy said. "This incident has resulted in a hardening of our facility, which is part of an ongoing modernization process. Also, jail personnel we're doing their jobs correctly. In fact, if it weren't for alert deputies and correctional officers, more inmates would have escaped."

**This press release and others are available at [www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff](http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff). Placer County Crime Stoppers, Inc. is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Marshall and Williams. All tips are confidential. Call 1-800-923-8181.**